

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A device for establishing an imbricated stream of flat articles (4), in particular of printed products such as newspapers, magazines or brochures, from a supplied imbricated stream, or from a stream of imbricated stacks, or from a stack of the articles (4), the device comprising:

a conveying surface (3) suitable for driving the articles (4) in a conveying direction (F),

a stopping means (2) facing towards the conveying surface (3) and defining together with the conveying surface (3) a passage gap for the articles (4),

a dancing roller (1) being arranged freely rotating downstream of the stopping means (2) and being biased towards the conveying surface (3),

wherein the dancing roller (1) and the stopping means (2) are coupled to be movable together towards and away from the conveying surface (3) such that a width of the passage gap between the stopping means (2) and the conveying surface (3) is controlled by a displacement of the dancing roller (1) caused by the imbricated stream being conveyed, by the conveying surface, beneath the dancing roller (1) and contacting the dancing roller (1), wherein a change in sensing of a leading article edge by the dancing roller enlarges the width of the passage gap is equal to the displacement of the dancing roller (1).

Claim 2 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the dancing roller (1) and the stopping means (2) are spring mounted on a support (5) in a manner to be movable in a limited manner.

Claim 3 (original): The device according to claim 2, wherein the dancing roller (1) and the stopping means (2) are arranged on a frame (11), the frame being movable relative to the support (5), and wherein the dancing roller and the stopping means are rigidly coupled by the frame (11) at least during operation of the device.

Claim 4 (original): The device according to claim 3, wherein a height offset (H.2) between the dancing roller (1) and the stopping means (2) is adjustable.

Claim 5 (original): The device according to claim 4, wherein, for the adjustment of the height offset (H.2), the dancing roller (1) is supported in a supporting arm (12), wherein the supporting arm is arranged on the frame (11) in a pivoting manner and wherein the pivoting position of the supporting arm (12) relative to the frame (11) is adjustable.

Claim 6 (original): The device according to claim 3, wherein a distance (D) in the conveying direction (F) between the dancing roller (1) and the stopping means (2) is adjustable.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The device according to ~~claims~~claim 5 wherein a distance (D) in the conveying direction (F) between the dancing roller (1) and the stopping means (2) is adjustable and wherein the dancing roller (1) is displaceable along the supporting arm (12).

Claim 8 (original): The device according to claim 3, wherein a minimum distance

(H.1) between the dancing roller (1) and the conveying surface (3) is adjustable.

Claim 9 (original): The device according to claim 8, wherein, for adjusting the minimum distance (H.1), a connection between the frame (11) and the support (5) is adjustable.

Claim 10 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the conveying surface (3) comprises openings (31.1) and wherein the device further comprises a suction device (32), which is connected with the openings (31.1) upstream of the stopping means (2).

Claim 11 (original): The device according to claim 10, wherein a distance (D) in the conveying direction (F) between the dancing roller (1) and the suction device (32) is adjustable.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The device according to claim 11, wherein the dancing roller (1) and the stopping means (2) are spring mounted on a support (5) in a manner to be movable in a limited manner and wherein, for adjusting the distance (D) between the dancing roller (1) and the suction device (32), the support (5) is displaceable parallel to the conveying direction (F).

Claim 13 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein, at least in the region of the stopping means (2), the conveying surface (3) is bent around a bending axis oriented essentially parallel to the conveying direction (F) or is correspondingly stepped, and wherein, in the region of the stopping means (2), the device further comprises bending rollers (7) being aligned with lateral areas of the articles (4).

Claim 14 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the stopping means

(2) comprises first and second surface sections (21, 22) facing upstream, wherein the first and second surface sections (21, 22) are essentially plane and extend transverse to the conveying direction (F) and wherein the first surface section (21) is situated further from the conveying surface (3) than the second surface section and forms an angle of 75 to 80 degrees with the conveying surface (3) and the second surface section (22) is situated closer to the conveying surface (3) and forms an angle of 45 to 60 degrees with the conveying surface (3).

Claim 15 (currently amended): The device according to claim 1, wherein, ~~on its end directed towards the conveying surface (3),~~ the stopping means (2) comprises a braking tongue (23) made out of a flexible material, the braking tongue being arranged to face the conveying surface (3).

Claim 16 (new): The device according to claim 13, wherein the conveying surface comprises two lateral conveyor belts and a central conveyor belt wherein the two lateral conveyor belts are configured lower with respect to the stopping means than the central conveyor belt.

Claim 17 (new): The device according to claim 1, wherein the stopping means (2) is immovable in the conveying direction (F).